Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1.   (Currently amended) A method <u>practiced by a computer</u> for signaling <u>to a user a</u> write status <u>of an external storage device connected to the computer</u>, the method comprising:

detecting transfer of data <u>from the computer</u> to ~~an~~ <u>the</u> external storage device ~~plugged into an input/output port associated with a computer~~; ~~and~~

activating a write-in-progress indicator that signals that writing has not been completed by the external storage device<u>;</u>

<u>the computer receiving from the external storage device an indication that the external storage device has completed writing to non-volatile memory of the external storage device; and</u>

<u>responsive to the received indication, the computer deactivating the write-in-progress indicator to convey to the user that it is safe to disconnect the external storage device from the computer.</u>

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises detecting transfer of data to an external storage device <u>directly</u> plugged into an input/output port of the computer.

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3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises detecting transfer of data to an external storage device <u>directly</u> plugged into an input/output port provided in a front panel of the computer.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein activating a write-in-progress indicator comprises activating an indicator of the computer that is adjacent the input/output port.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an input/output port of a connector hub that is connected to the computer.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein activating a write-in-progress indicator comprises activating an indicator of the connector hub that is adjacent the input/output port.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein activating a write-in-progress indicator comprises activating an indicator light associated with the input/output port.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein activating an indicator light comprises activating a light-emitting diode associated with the input/output port.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein activating a write-in-progress indicator comprises issuing an advanced configuration power interface command to a switch that controls the indicator.

10-11. (Canceled)

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 1, wherein ~~communicating with the external storage device comprises~~ the computer receives the indication from the external storage device in response to the computer sending a command requesting confirmation when writing is completed or a query requesting an indication as to whether writing is completed.

13-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Currently amended) A ~~system stored on a~~ computer-readable medium that stores a system, the system comprising:

logic configured to activate a write-in-progress indicator when data is transferred to an external storage device that is plugged into an input/output port associated with a computer, the indicator signaling that writing has not been completed by the external storage device;

logic configured to ~~determine when the external storage device has completed writing~~ request indication from the external storage device as to when it has completed writing data to non-volatile memory of the external storage device; ~~and~~

logic configured to receive from the external storage device an indication that the external storage device has completed writing to the non-volatile memory of the external storage device; and

logic configured to deactivate the write-in-progress indicator when ~~it is determined that writing has been completed~~ the indication has been received.

19.   (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ <u>computer-readable medium</u> of claim 18, wherein the logic configured to activate a write-in-progress indicator comprises logic configured to activate an indicator adjacent the input/output port.

20.   (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ <u>computer-readable medium</u> of claim 19, wherein the logic configured to activate a write-in-progress indicator comprises logic configured to issue an advanced configuration power interface command to a switch that controls the indicator.

21-32. (Canceled)